

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Office Action mailed February 25, 2008 has been carefully considered. Claims 1, 3 and 5-9 are pending with claims 1 and 8 being in independent form. A copy of the claims indicating the present status of each is attached hereto for the convenience of the Examiner.

Claims 1, 3, and 5-9 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Japanese Patent Publication No. JP2001-313331 to Hiroshi in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,677,167 to Kanno and U.S. Patent No. 6,771,483 to Harada et al. (hereinafter "Harada"). Reconsideration of this rejection is respectfully requested.

The Examiner argues that Hiroshi disclose many of the features of claim 1, for example, of the present application. The Examiner concedes, however, that Hiroshi does not disclose 1) an insulating sprayed layer having a thickness in a range of 20 μm to 500 μm , 2) a convex fitting section disposed on a peripheral section on either one of the ceramic base body or the temperature controlling section and 3) a concave fitting section disposed on a peripheral section of the ceramic base body or the temperature controlling section so that the convex fitting section and the concave fitting section engage together. The Examiner argues that Kanno discloses a convex part and a convex part on the peripheral section of the ceramic base body referring to the silicon ring 32 and the stepped shape of the edge or susceptor 76. The Examiner argues that it would have been obvious to modify Hiroshi to include these features to provide a way for the ring to mate with the susceptor. The Examiner further argues that Harada discloses an electrostatic chuck with a thickness of 100-500 micrometers and argues that it would be obvious to modify Hiroshi to have an insulation layer 8 with this thickness since this layer must be dense and of the proper dimension to ensures the properties of electrical insulating, corrosion and resistance to plasma erosion. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

None of the references cited by the Examiner show or suggest "a convex fitting section disposed on a peripheral section on either one of the ceramic base body or the temperature controlling section" and "a concave fitting section disposed on a peripheral section of the ceramic base body or the temperature controlling section so that the convex fitting section and

the concave fitting section engage together, and the insulating sprayed layer and the bonding agent layer are sealed from the outside.”

The Examiner concedes that Hiroshi does not disclose convex and concave parts and relies on Kanno as allegedly teaching this feature. In Kanno, the wafer stage shown in Figs 1, 6, 11-14, 16, 19 and 20 engages the focus ring. However, the drawings clearly show a space formed between the wafer stage 52 and the focus ring 32, for example, in Fig. 12. The space, which is provided to facilitate changing of the focus ring as it wears down due to exposure to plasma and corrosive gasses allows for invasion of plasma or corrosive gas to reach inner components such as the inner electrodes, the insulative layer and the bonding agent layer. Thus, the ring and susceptor do not engage each other so that the insulative layer and bonding agent layer are sealed, as is required by claim 1, of the present application.

In contrast, in the present application superior protection is provided to inner electrodes and to the insulating sprayed layer and bonding agent layer from plasma and corrosive gas. No combination of the reference described by the Examiner shows or suggests such protection.

Harada also fails to disclose the patentable features of claim 1 described above.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1, and the claims depending therefrom, are patentable over the cited art for at least the reasons described above.

Similarly, with regard to independent claim 8, the cited art fails to disclose a susceptor device including “a convex fitting section disposed on a peripheral section on either one of the ceramic base body or the temperature controlling section” and “a concave fitting section disposed on a peripheral section of the ceramic base body or the temperature controlling section so that the convex fitting section and the concave fitting section engage together, and the insulating sprayed layer and the bonding agent layer are sealed from the outside.”

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 8 is also patentable over the cited art for at least the reasons described above.

In light of the remarks herein, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1, 3 and 5-9 are patentable over the cited art for at least the reasons described above.

Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,



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